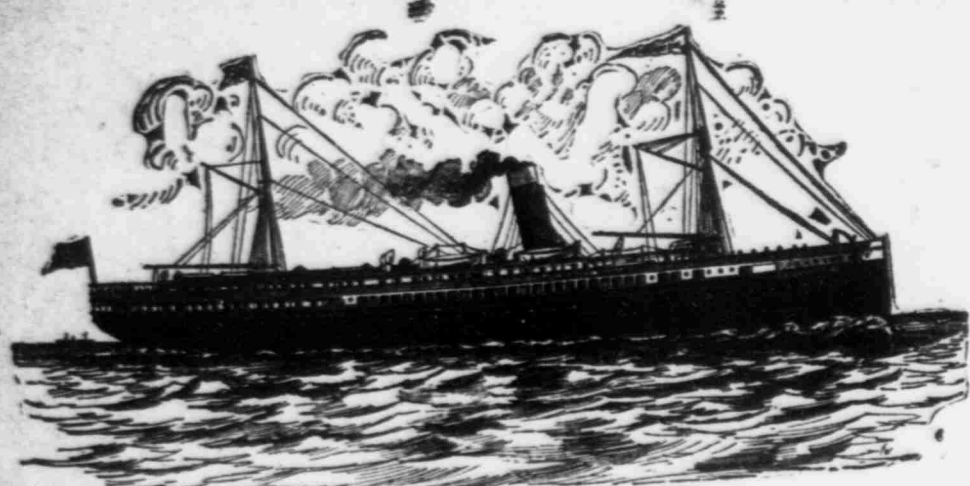


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3-15-02

## LOVE BY PROXY

(Original)

"Walter," said Mrs. Bertha Turner

to her artist cousin, who was painting

her portrait, "why don't you marry?"

"Because, my dear Bertha, I cannot

get the woman I want. I will tell you

a secret. There is a young girl who oc-

casionaly looks out of that window

facing my studio. I have fallen in love

with her. She does not deign to notice

me."

"If I were a man, with my knowl-

edge of women, I could get any woman

in the world."

"I wish you would get this girl for

me."

Neither spoke for awhile. Then Ber-

tha Turner said:

"I have a plan. For you, my favorite

cousin, I will execute it, though I

would not do so for any one else. Give

me some of your clothes. There is a

girl sitting at the window now. Is

that she?"

"Yes. What are you going to do?"

"Never mind. Leave that to me."

Ten minutes later Mrs. Turner,

dressed from the waist up as a man,

stroled to the window and looked out.

She held some roses in her hand and

taking careful aim, sent them into the

lap of the girl opposite. The recipient

started and looked out just in time to

see the sender disappear from the win-

dow.

The girl held the flowers over the sill

preparing to dropping them into the

court below, but before doing so con-

cluded to enjoy their fragrance. Then

she laid them on a table near by, arose

and disappeared.

"There's a beginning for you. To-

morrow after the sitting we'll see if we

can advance a step."

The next day when Mrs. Turner ar-

rived at the studio her cousin said to

her:

"Your effort has been a failure."

"Why so?"

"I went to the window this morning.

She came to her window at the same

moment. As soon as she saw me she

turned and walked away."

"That's very good. If she hadn't

done that this morning, she would

have done it this afternoon. Now,

having shown her condemnation of

your assurance, perhaps she will be

forgiving."

The sitting was cut short, for in the

midst of it the girl opposite appeared

at her window with her workbasket.

"She expects you to appear and look

very penitent. She must be disappoint-

ed. Give me your coat. There; now

put your hat on the back of my head

so as to conceal my knot of hair. That

will do."

Seizing a handglass, she sat near the

window, with her back turned toward

the girl opposite.

"Aha, little one!" she said. "Who

is hurt this time? Smooth that wrink-

led brow." She presently burst into

a laugh.

"Look," she said to her cousin.

"I see nothing unusual."

"She's putting that sleeve in wrong

side foremost. Fix your mind on your

work, my dear. Don't be thinking

about the man opposite."

At the next sitting as Mrs. Turner

entered the studio Walter Burne said

excitedly:

"It's all up. Until today she has

never failed to show herself at the

window in the morning. I have not

seen her since you left. I treated her

very rudely."

The lady received this information

with equanimity and went to the win-

dow.

"Splendid!" she exclaimed, clasping

her hands with a childish delight.

"What is it?"

Burne looked out and saw a flower

on the window sill.

"She tells you," said his cousin, "that

she appreciates your gift."

"How do you know?"

"That's what the flower she had

placed on the window sill means in

flower language."

"You don't mean it?"

"Yes. Having shown her that you

were offended at her apparent want

of appreciation, she has hastened to

tell you that you were mistaken. Now

I think you had better give her a for-

giving reply."

Going to some pots containing plants

in an improvised conservatory, she

looked them over.

"Oh, dear! There is nothing to indi-

cate forgiveness or forgive me. This

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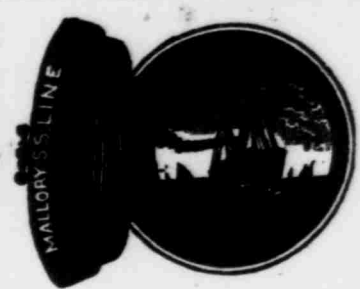
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